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ST 603 CO Systematic Theology III

Fall 2011

Mark E. Ross, Ph.D.

Professor of Systematic Theology

Class Meeting Times and Location

Thursdays, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

September 1st – December 8th

Erskine Theological Seminary Columbia Campus

1500 Lady Street

Suite 200 *

Columbia, SC

** Enter by the side door off the driveway from Lady Street and go to the second floor.
Parking is available on the side and behind the building, on the street or across Bull Street.*

Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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OFFICE HOURS

In Columbia: Wednesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

My office is located at the Erskine Theological Seminary Columbia Campus, 1500 Lady Street, Suite 200, Room 205. Enter by the side door off the driveway from Lady Street and go to the second floor. Due to meetings and unforeseen circumstances that may arise, my schedule may change. If you need to see me, I strongly recommend that you schedule an appointment. You are welcome to call me at home when necessary. Please make your calls between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Because Columbia is not convenient for many students, I will do my best to be available. We can meet before or after class in Columbia or by telephone.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course concludes a systematic presentation of the Christian faith. Using Biblical constructs, historical developments, and confessional statements, students explore the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit and Salvation, the Doctrine of the Church and Sacraments, and the Doctrine of Last Things. Students should complete ST 601 and 602 (Systematic Theology I and II) prior to taking this course. *Required for M.Div. and M.A.T.S. students. Three hours. Available as an EVC course.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to educate persons for service in the Christian Church. In keeping with that mission Erskine offers both the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Master of Arts in Theological Studies (M.A.T.S.) degrees. This course is the third of a three course sequence (ST 601, 602, and 603) required for both of these degree programs. The purpose of the M.Div. degree is to educate ministers who can formulate a theory of ministry, design and implement forms of ministry appropriate to particular circumstances, and integrate the various disciplines and skills of ministry so as to share God's love with all people, all to the end that God may be glorified. The purpose of the M.A.T.S. degree is to prepare scholars who have an in-depth knowledge of a given field in Biblical, historical, or theological studies and who can integrate the various fields into a coherent whole, to the end that God may be glorified. This course builds upon ST 601 and 602, applying what was learned there to the doctrines of the Holy Spirit and salvation, the church and sacraments, and the last things. From the lectures, readings, classroom discussion, and writing

assignments, diligent students should acquire an understanding of theology as a discipline . A student successfully completing this course should be able to:

1. Understand and explain the fundamentals of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, and the application of the work of Christ in salvation.
2. Understand and explain the doctrine of the Church.
3. Understand and explain the nature of the sacraments and the place they have in the Christian life and the Church.
4. Understand and explain the principal views on the Last Things.
5. Gain a greater appreciation for the value of systematic theology in the study of the Bible.
6. Grow in one's love for God as revealed in the work of redemption.
7. Become a better interpreter and expositor of the Bible.
8. Grow in one's motivation and commitment to personal study of the Bible, and living one's life according to the will of God found in the Scriptures.
9. Grow in one's zeal to follow Jesus Christ in the service of the Gospel.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Students are expected to secure their own copies of all required textbooks. As a convenience, the seminary has a bookstore portal on the website at <http://www.erskineseminary.org/bookstore.html>. There you will find links to familiar vendors (CBD, Amazon, B&N, and Books-A-Million) and can check availability of texts, compare prices, and place orders. The ETS SBA will receive a modest percentage of the profits from students' and professors' purchases through this portal. The Erskine Campus Bookstore will carry a limited number of copies of every required text and orders for books can be placed through the Campus Bookstore.

1. Any systematic theology text by a single author of your choosing, preferably one that is accepted in your church or denomination. If you need recommendations, please consult with a professor or a minister who belongs to your church tradition. See below under Recommended Books for suggestions.
2. Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. Edited by John T. McNeill. Translated and Indexed by Ford Lewis Battles. Westminster John Knox Press, 1960. ISBN-13: 978-0664220280
3. Boice, James Montgomery. *Foundations of the Christian Faith*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986. ISBN-13: 978-0877849919

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Under Required Books above, students must select a systematic theology text alongside those which are required. The books in 3-12 below would be suitable options.

1. Packer, J. I. *Concise Theology: A Guide to Historic Christian Beliefs*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2001. ISBN-13: 978-0842339605

2. Elwell, Walter. A., ed., *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Second edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House Company, 1984, 2001. ISBN-13: 978-0801020759
3. Grudem, Wayne A. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Zondervan, 1995. ISBN-13: 978-0310286707 [Reformed, Baptist, Charismatic]
4. Oden, Thomas. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. HarperOne, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0061449710 [Ecumenical by a Methodist]
5. Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. Baker Academic, 1998. ISBN-13: 978-0801021824 [Baptist]
6. Berkhof, Louis. *Systematic Theology*. New Combined Edition. Eerdmans, 1996. ISBN-13: 978-0802838209 [Reformed]
7. Reymond, Robert L. *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*. Second Revised Edition. Thomas Nelson, 1998. ISBN-13: 978-0849913174 [Reformed]
8. Williams, J. Rodman. *Renewal Theology: Systematic Theology from a Charismatic Perspective*. Zondervan, 1996. ISBN-13: 978-0310209140 [Charismatic]
9. Demarest, Bruce A. *Integrative Theology*. Zondervan, 1996. ISBN-13: 978-0310209157 [Reformed]
10. Frame, John. *Salvation Belongs to the Lord: An Introduction to Systematic Theology*. P & R Publishing, 2006. ISBN-13: 978-1596380189 [Reformed]
11. Culbertson, Paul and H. Orton Wiley. *Introduction to Christian Theology*. Beacon Hill Press, 1946. ISBN-13: 9780834102170 [Wesleyan-Arminian]
12. Milne, Bruce. *Know the Truth: A Handbook of Christian Belief*. Third edition. IVP Academic, 2010. ISBN-13: 978-0830825769 [Reformed, Baptist]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance** – Preparation, attendance, and participation in class sessions are required. Bring your Bible to each class session. Students must arrive on time for class, and following breaks. You are expected to remain at each session until it concludes. Students who miss more than 3 class sessions or its equivalent through late arrival or early departure will normally be asked to withdraw from the course or receive a failing grade.
2. **Three short papers** – Three short papers are required for this course, each about 5-7 pages. The first paper will be on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The second paper will be on the doctrine of salvation. The third paper will be on the doctrine of the church and sacraments. Each paper should include a one paragraph, single-spaced, summary statement of the doctrine under discussion. The remainder of the paper will focus on discussion and support for the doctrinal statement. Where a Biblical passage is cited, the reference should be inserted in the text of the paper, for example (John 3:16). Do not footnote Scripture

references. The paper must also include and discuss (either positively or negatively) appropriate quotations from Calvin, Boice, and the third theologian that the student has chosen to read. These citations must be footnoted in the appropriate fashion. The paper should conform to the standards for seminary papers. Each paper will be worth 20% of your grade.

IMPORTANT: Before writing a paper, each student should consult the seminary's approved "ETS Writing Theological Papers" by Dr. Fairbairn, a former Erskine Seminary professor. All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the "ETS Style and Form Standards for Papers, Theses, and Dissertations". These documents are available on McCain Library's web page at <http://www.erskine.edu/library/libinstruct.htm>. In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper's cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

3. **Two Exams** – The exams will consist of 20 short identification questions (requiring a one or two sentence answer) taken from the lectures and the readings in Boice and Calvin. Each question will be worth 20% of your grade. The first exam will cover the doctrines of the Holy Spirit and salvation. The second exam will cover the doctrines of the church and sacraments, and the last things.
4. **Portfolio requirement** – Students who have already taken Systematic Theology I and II *and who have not completed their portfolio requirement in theology* should consult with the professor at the beginning of semester about how this requirement is to be met. The portfolio requirement in theology is a major paper on a theological topic. For this class you will have the option of doing one major paper in place of the three assigned papers. It will be a summary statement of your faith covering the major topics covered in ST 601-603. You may incorporate work done in ST 601 and 602 for this major paper. The major paper will be worth 60% of your final grade.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Each of the exams and papers is worth 20% of your final grade. They will be graded on a 20 point scale. Papers will first receive a letter grade and be converted to points according to the following scale:

A	19-20	B	17.8	C	16.4	D	14.6
A-	18.6	B-	17.2	C-	15.8	D-	14.0
B+	18.2	C+	16.8	D+	15.2	F	0-13.9

You will receive 1 point for each correct answer on the exams. The points for the papers and exams will be combined. The grading scale published in the seminary catalog will be used to arrive at your final grade. The scale is:

A	95-100	B	88-90	C	80-83	D	72-75
A-	93-94	B-	86-87	C-	78-79	D-	70-71

B+ 91-92 C+ 84-85 D+ 76-77 F 0-69

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

“For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?”

Luke 14:28

Each seminary class requires about 120 hours of work, covering both time in class and time spent in reading, researching, thinking, and writing. About 40 hours will be spent in class for this course, leaving about 80 hours of work to be done outside. Roughly, that means that **for each 3 hours a week you spend in class, you will need 6 more hours that week to complete the assigned work.** Plan ahead. Let the one who has ears to hear, hear!

The dates given below are when the assignments are due!

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|----------------------------|--|
| September 1 st | <p>The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Boice, pp. 373-398 • Read Calvin, pp. 537-592 • Read your theologian on the person and work of the Holy Spirit |
| September 8 th | <p>The Order of Salvation (introduction)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Boice, pp. 401-423 • Read Calvin, pp. 592-669 • Read your theologian on faith and regeneration |
| September 15 th | <p>Justification and Adoption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Boice, pp. 424-448 • Read Calvin, pp. 725-788 • Read your theologian on justification and adoption |
| September 22 nd | <p>Sanctification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Boice, pp. 449-456 • Read Calvin, pp. 788-849 • Read your theologian on sanctification |
| September 29 th | <p>The Christian Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Boice, pp. 459-482 • Read Calvin, pp. 684-724 • Read your theologian on the Christian life • Due: Paper on the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit |
| October 6 th | <p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Boice, pp. 483-507 • Read Calvin, pp. 850-920 |

- Read your theologian on prayer and the means of grace
- October 13th Foreknowledge and Election
- Read Boice, pp. 511-562
 - Read Calvin, pp. 920-987
 - Read your theologian on foreknowledge and election
- October 20th The Doctrine of the Church
- Read Boice, pp. 565-593
 - Read Calvin, pp. 1011-1084
 - Read your theologian on the doctrine of the church
 - **First Exam is given**
- October 27th The Doctrine of the Sacraments
- Read Boice, pp. 594-605
 - Read Calvin, pp. 1276-1303
 - Read your theologian on the sacraments
- November 3rd The Doctrine of Baptism
- Read Calvin, pp. 1303-1359
 - Read your theologian on baptism
 - **Due: Paper on the doctrine of salvation**
- November 10th The Doctrine of the Lord's Supper
- Read Calvin, pp. 1359-1428
 - Read in your theologian on the Lord's Supper
- November 17th The Doctrine of the Last Things: Personal Eschatology
- Read Boice, pp. 606-656
 - Read Calvin, pp. 987-1008
 - Read your theologian on personal eschatology
- November 24th NO CLASS: FALL BREAK FOR THANKSGIVING
- December 1st The Doctrine of the Last Things: General Eschatology
- Read Boice, pp. 657-720
 - Read Calvin, pp. 1485-1521
 - Read in your theologian on general eschatology
 - **Due: Paper on the church and sacraments** (or the major paper on your statement of faith)
- December 8th **Final Exam**

ERSKINE SEMINARY POLICIES FOR STUDENTS

http://seminary.erskine.edu/content_policies/SeminaryPoliciesforETSSStudents.pdf

A FINAL WORD

This is a class in Christian doctrine, meaning that it is a class studying the teaching of the Bible. We study all the Bible, comparing Scripture with Scripture, seeking to understand each part of the Bible in harmony with the whole. As we do so, we study what the Church has said about the Bible through all its ages, that we might have the benefit of instruction from those most gifted in the Church to help us understand the Word of God. We do not study doctrine for doctrine's sake; we study it for truth's sake, and thus we primarily study Him who is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). The truth we are seeking is the truth of the glory of God and everlasting life. Our Lord prayed to His Father on behalf of His followers, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth" (John 17:17). I as your teacher will be seeking the answer to that prayer for your life and mine as I teach. I urge you to seek the answer to that prayer as you participate in this class. May God have the glory for it all, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit, in accordance with the Holy Scriptures. *Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam*: "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory" (Ps. 115:1).

(For a moving use of this text, see the conclusion to the movie *Henry V*, when the vastly outnumbered English troops have won an overwhelming victory against the French. Youtube.com has a clip at <http://video.aol.com/video-detail/henry-v-1989-kenneth-branagh-royal-fellowship-of-death/450263930>.